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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 27 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT SAID THE HISTORY OF MALAY UNITY IS IMPORTANT TO THE PRESENT GENERATION.

THE PRESENT-DAY GENERATION FELT PROTECTED AND SAFE BECAUSE OF UMNO'S EXISTENCE, SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, WITHOUT UMNO THEY MIGHT STILL BE LAGGING BEHIND AND NOT COMMAND RESPECT. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID AT A BREAKING OF FAST TO COMMEMORATE UMNO'S ANNIVERSARY HOSTED BY THE SELANGOR AND FEDERAL TERRITORY UMNO AT THE SULTAN SULAIMAN CLUB IN KAMPUNG BARU HERE.

HE SAID THE HISTORY OF UMNO'S FORMATION SHOULD BE A POINT OF AWARENESS FOR THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

HE SAID THE MALAYS OPPOSED THE FORMATION OF THE MALAYAN UNION 43 YEARS AGO BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO ENSURE EQUAL STATUS FOR THE PEOPLE OF VARIOUS RACES IN THE COUNTRY. -- MORE
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THE MALAYS OPPOSED THE MALAY UNION BECAUSE AT THAT TIME THEY HAD MANY SHORTCOMINGS AND WERE ECONOMICALLY AND EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD. HE SAID IT WAS SUCH DESPERATION THAT PROMPTED THE MALAYS FROM VARIOUS POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS TO UNITE AND OPPOSE THE BRITISH PLAN.

HE SAID THEY HAD GATHERED AT THE SULTAN SULAIMAN CLUB FROM MARCH 1 TO 4 1946 FOR THE MALAY CONGRESS WHICH RESULTED IN THE FORMATION OF UMNO IN JOHOR BAHRU ON MAY 11 THE SAME YEAR.

THE DATE HAD SINCE BEEN REGARDED AS SACRED TO REMIND THE YOUNGER GENERATION OF UMNO'S STRUGGLES TO CHAMPION THE FATE OF THE MALAYS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID ALL MALAYS COULD NOT FORGET THE DATE AS IT WAS SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT TO THEM. -- MORE
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ON YESTERDAY'S ORDER GRANTED BY THE SEREBAN HIGH COURT RESTRAINING UMNO FROM HOLDING ITS 43RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN JOHOR BAHRU ON MAY 10 AND 11, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD LEAVE IT TO PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL DATUK HOHAMED RAHMAT TO TAKE LEGAL REHEDY.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER THE CEREHONY THAT ALL MALAYS WOULD STILL COMMEMORATE THAT DATE AND NO ONE COULD DENY THAT HISTORICAL FACT OF UMNO'S FORMATION.

EARLIER SELANGOR HENTERI BESAR DATUK MUHAMMAD HAJI MUHAMMED, TAIB, IN A BRIEF REMARK, SAID TONIGHT'S EVENT WAS TO COMMEMORATE THE MALAY CONGRESS WHICH WAS CONVENED AT THE CLUB FROM MARCH 1 TO 4 1946.

ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE BREAKING OF FAST WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY MAGHRIB PRAYERS AND TAHLIL RECITALS. -- BERNAMA
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